

EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

EMILY TORJUSEN,)	
)	3:18-cv-05785-BHS
Plaintiff,)	
)	Tacoma,
)	Washington
v.)	
)	April 1, 2022
NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER)	
CORPORATION d/b/a AMTRAK,)	Jury Trial
)	
Defendant.)	9:00 a.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN H. SETTLE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Proceedings stenographically reported and transcript
produced with computer-aided technology

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 2 of 64

1 Q. Emily, I am going to ask you some questions this
2 morning. You may have already been told, I tend to speak
3 quickly. And if I am speaking too quickly or you think I
4 am mumbling or you can't follow my questions, please tell
5 me. Okay?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 Emily, are you currently residing in Cairo, Egypt?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And when did you move back to Cairo?

11 A. I arrived there at the end of June, in June.

12 Q. Of 2021?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And when had you left Cairo to come back to the
15 United States, the first time? I'm sorry. I apologize.

16 A. I first left Cairo to come back to the United States
17 in September of 2019.

18 Q. And at that point, you resumed your studies at
19 University of Washington, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And my understanding is you began your studies at
22 University of Washington in 2016; is that correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And specifically, your first semester would have been
25 in autumn of 2016?

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 3 of 64

1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** Just for my and the jury's edification, UW, is that
3 quarters?

4 **A.** Yes.

5 **Q.** Semesters or trimesters?

6 **A.** It is a quarter system.

7 **Q.** So in a typical school year, would you have four
8 quarters or three?

9 **A.** I mean, typically you do autumn, winter and spring,
10 and you can take summer quarter as well.

11 **Q.** Got you. And there were occasions when you actually
12 took courses during the summer, correct?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** A7 just for the witness.

15 Emily, can you see what's in front of you on the
16 screen?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** And just take a look at what has been marked as
19 Defense Exhibit A7 -- A7-A. Emily, is that your
20 transcript at the University of Washington?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 MR. BONVENTRE: Judge, I would move that into
23 evidence at this time.

24 MR. PETRU: No objection.

25 THE COURT: A7 is admitted. It may be published.

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 4 of 64

(Exhibit No. A7 admitted.)

BY MR. BONVENTRE:

Q. So Emily, I just want to ask you some questions about your course work at the University of Washington and your grades and things like that, okay?

A. Okay.

Q. The first -- would it be correct that the first quarter of courses that you took following the accident on the train would have been the winter of 2018?

A. Correct.

Q. And could you tell the jury what courses you took at UW in the winter of 2018?

A. I took Elementary Arabic, a class called Near Eastern Gateway, Intermediate Studies of the Near East, and Modern Political Thought.

Q. That was 18 credits?

A. Yes.

Q. And you completed all 18, correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Elementary Arabic, is that a language course?

A. Yes.

Q. What's Near Eastern Gateway? What was the subject matter of that course, Emily?

A. It was a required introductory overview of some of the general histories of the Middle East.

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 5 of 64

1 Q. And you said Modern Political Thought?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was that the Middle East or Western thought, or what
4 was that, do you recall?

5 A. It was mostly political theory, like the basis of
6 American democracy.

7 Q. Your taking Arabic arose, my understanding is, at
8 some point -- I forget the expression you used
9 yesterday -- I don't know if you fell in love with it,
10 became entranced with Arabic and Middle Eastern history;
11 is that fair to say, at some point?

12 A. I became interested in it, yes.

13 Q. And -- that's become a passion, I believe is the word
14 you used yesterday; is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And your studies were, therefore, for the remainder
17 of your time at University of Washington were geared
18 towards those types -- what your passion was; would that
19 be fair to say?

20 A. Yes, it was my interest at the time.

21 Q. And that's -- the Middle East and Arabic language and
22 things like that, that's one of the reasons why you went
23 to Cairo back in 2019, correct?

24 A. Yes. My goal was to learn Arabic, yes.

25 Q. And your passion for Middle Eastern history and

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 6 of 64

1 civilization and language is one of the reasons why you
2 are in Cairo now, correct?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You chose Cairo not because you are interested in
5 Middle Eastern?

6 A. I went there to study Arabic and also because that
7 was the best place for me at the time.

8 Q. That first semester after the -- after the train
9 accident, your GPA was 3.53, correct?

10 A. Let me look. My cumulative GPA?

11 Q. No, your GPA for that quarter.

12 A. Let me look at it.

13 Q. Do you see where it says, "attempted 18, earned 18,
14 GPA"?

15 A. Yes, I see it, 3.53, yes.

16 Q. And that earned you the dean's list, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Extraordinarily, the first quarter after this
19 accident, this horrific accident you went through, you
20 actually made the dean's list, correct?

21 MR. PETRU: Move to strike the first word of the
22 question.

23 THE COURT: Granted.

24 BY MR. BONVENTRE:

25 Q. You made the dean's list the first quarter after the

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 7 of 64

1 accident, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And then you studied in the spring of 2018; is that
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And what courses did you take in the spring of 2018?

7 A. I took Elementary Arabic, an international studies
8 class that was called Cultural Interactions, and then
9 something called Intermediate Studies, which was part of
10 the Near Eastern faculty, and a polysci class related to
11 the simulation of the U.S. Congress.

12 Q. And that semester, you earned a 3.69; is that
13 correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And again made the dean's list, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then in the autumn of 2018, do you see that, on
18 the next page? I'm sorry. Do you have that, Emily, on
19 the next page?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And in the autumn of 2018, your GPA was 3.93,
22 correct?

23 A. Yes. Correct.

24 Q. And, again, dean's list, correct?

25 A. Yeah.

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 8 of 64

1 Q. Just so the jury understands, it's 3.93 out of 4 is
2 the highest you could possibly get, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And the winter of 2019, you earned a GPA of 3.88,
5 correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And on the dean's list again, correct?

8 A. Correct. All of this was while I was studying
9 abroad.

10 Q. And you earned a 3.88 while you were studying abroad,
11 correct?

12 A. For which quarter? Oh, for the winter 2019, correct.

13 Q. '19. I'm sorry. Correct.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And then in the spring of 2019, you earned a 3.75,
16 correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And that was with a GPA of 3 point -- excuse me, that
19 was also the dean's list, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And you did not take any courses in the summer of
22 2019, correct?

23 A. I can't see on the screen.

24 Q. I'm sorry. You did not --

25 A. No, I did not take a summer quarter, no.

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 9 of 64

1 Q. And that's because -- at that time, and we will
2 discuss that later, you were living in Cairo, Egypt,
3 correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And you were not earning credits for school during
6 that time, correct?

7 A. No, I was not.

8 Q. And in the winter of 2020, you were back in the
9 United States; is that correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Actually, I apologize. Before that, the autumn of
12 2019, you were back in the United States at UW?

13 A. Yes, correct.

14 Q. And your -- what courses did you take that semester
15 or that quarter?

16 A. I took something called Advanced Readings. It was an
17 international studies class, something related to the
18 political economics of developing countries, I think,
19 which was another international studies class, a senior
20 seminar for the Near Eastern faculty, and an Introduction
21 to Political Economy.

22 Q. I apologize. The seminar was a senior seminar on
23 what, Emily?

24 A. For the Near Eastern languages and civilizations, the
25 NEL faculty at the University of Washington, this was

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 10 of 64

1 their senior seminar.

2 Q. And that semester -- autumn of 2019, you earned a
3 3.9, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And once again made the dean's list, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And in the winter of 2020, you again earned a 3.9,
8 correct?

9 A. Yes. While I was doing my internship at the
10 Washington State Capitol, I received credit for the
11 internship, which I received a 3.9 GPA for.

12 Q. And what was that internship? You were at the State
13 Capitol of Washington, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And were you working with legislators in the Capitol?

16 A. I was an intern for legislators.

17 Q. I'm sorry?

18 A. Yes, I was an intern for legislators.

19 Q. The next was the spring of 2020. What courses did
20 you take in the spring of 2020?

21 A. I took something called the Making of the 21st
22 Century, which was an international studies class, and an
23 international studies class called Special Topics of the
24 Middle East, another international studies class called
25 Industry and the States, and a polysci class called Global

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 11 of 64

1 Crime and Corruption.

2 Q. And you achieved a 3.62 GPA, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And, again, made the dean's list, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And in the summer of 2020, you achieved a GPA of 3.7,
7 correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And, again, made the dean's list?

10 A. Yes, for an intensive intermediate Arabic class.

11 Q. What was the class you were taking? I'm sorry?

12 A. It was an intermediate Arabic class.

13 Q. Does it say -- what does it mean that it is an
14 intensive intermediate Arabic class?

15 A. It means that it was the summer quarter. They offer
16 a class to help people catch up if they have -- they are
17 trying to complete a level of Arabic that they haven't
18 completed yet.

19 Q. And you earned a 3.7, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And again made the dean's list?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Is it accurate that you made the dean's list the rest
24 of the time you were at the University of Washington?

25 A. I can't see.

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 12 of 64

1 Q. Do you recall? I don't have the most recent
2 transcript. Do you recall?

3 A. I actually do not recall, but possibly.

4 Q. What was your major?

5 A. My final major which I graduated with?

6 Q. Yes. Do I understand you had three majors?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. That's pretty unusual having three majors, would you
9 agree?

10 MR. PETRU: Objection. Foundation.

11 THE COURT: Sustained.

12 BY MR. BONVENTRE:

13 Q. There were lots of students at the University of
14 Washington, correct?

15 A. Yes. It's a big school.

16 Q. Not everyone at the University of Washington
17 graduates with three degrees, correct?

18 A. I had three majors, yes.

19 Q. Three majors. I'm sorry. I apologize. Three
20 majors, correct?

21 A. Correct, I don't think everyone does that.

22 Q. In fact, it is pretty rare; is that fair to say?

23 MR. PETRU: Objection. Foundation.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 13 of 64

1 BY MR. BONVENTRE:

2 Q. What were the three majors you graduated with?

3 A. It was political science, international studies, and
4 Near Eastern languages/civilizations.

5 Q. And what is the study of Near Eastern languages and
6 civilizations?

7 A. It's the study of the Middle East. If you want to
8 learn a Middle Eastern language, this would be a good
9 major for someone pursuing that.

10 Q. What are the types of things that you studied?

11 A. Arabic and some required classes related to the
12 history of the region.

13 Q. All right. Thank you.

14 Now, Emily, I just want to talk a little about your
15 travels, beginning with your summer semester. Do I
16 understand that in the -- is it the summer of 2018, that
17 you went to France?

18 A. In August of 2018, yes.

19 Q. And was that to do with the term abroad?

20 A. Yes. The year began very early on, earlier than UW,
21 so I went there in August to arrive on time.

22 Q. Maybe I misunderstood. I apologize. Did you go
23 early to see the area or actually the course work was
24 starting early?

25 A. Yes, the course work started early.

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B
Page 14 of 64

1 Q. Got you. Did you go with anyone?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And where was -- where was the school or the courses
4 you were taking in France?

5 A. It was in a small town called Monton.

6 Q. Is it fair to say that is in the south of France?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And is it fair to say that's a pretty gorgeous place?

9 A. Yes, it is very pretty there.

10 Q. You have actually written an article about Cairo in
11 which you mention how gorgeous that part of the world is;
12 is that fair to say?

13 A. Yes, it is known for its beauty.

14 Q. And it is apparently very close to the border -- the
15 northern border of Italy; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And it is, I guess, fairly close to Monte Carlo,
18 because I understand you actually walked to Monte Carlo;
19 is that correct?

20 A. Yes, it is adjacent to Monaco.

21 Q. So while you were in France, were you working at a
22 particular institution or organization or studying at a
23 particular institution or organization?

24 A. I was enrolled at the university there as an exchange
25 student.

Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 15 of 64

1 Q. Is there something called the Po Institute, P-O
2 Institute?

3 A. It is called Sciences Po. That's the name of the
4 university.

5 Q. What is it called?

6 A. Sciences Po. That's the name of the university.

7 Q. Do you speak French, by the way?

8 A. I do not.

9 Q. And does the university have a particular, for lack
10 of a better -- specialty or focus?

11 A. Political science.

12 Q. And is it political science just in general, is it
13 specified for any particular region?

14 A. They have various campuses. The one at which I was
15 at was focused on the Middle East.

16 Q. So, again, following up on what your studies and
17 passions were at the time, is that why you chose --

18 A. In order to complete my majors, I needed to go to a
19 university which offered the classes which would meet the
20 required classes for my majors, yes.

21 Q. While -- there was some discussion of this yesterday,
22 so I just want to follow up. Do I understand that -- was
23 it an expensive town? Is that fair to say?

24 A. France, I guess -- it has been a while, but, yeah, I
25 found it expensive there, yeah.

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 16 of 64

1 Q. And, actually, you would walk sometimes to go to
2 Italy to buy your groceries, correct?

3 A. Yeah. I was eating rice mainly, so I was trying to
4 be frugal.

5 Q. My point was, you would -- part of your routine would
6 be to buy your groceries in Italy, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And sometimes you would walk; is that correct?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And sometimes you would take the train; isn't that
11 correct?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And how often would you buy groceries in Italy? How
14 often, once a week, more or less?

15 A. No. Maybe once or twice a month.

16 Q. While you were in -- did I hear right, there would be
17 times when you would actually walk to Monte Carlo to get
18 coffee; is that correct?

19 A. There is a very nice walk connecting the town of
20 Monton to Monte Carlo. It is about a two-hour walk. I
21 would go there. Monte Carlo had the only Starbucks in the
22 area, so it was a nice space to study.

23 Q. And you did that walk pretty frequently?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did you do it more than once?

____Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter____

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 17 of 64

1 A. I think in total I did it two times, maybe three.

2 Q. And it would be a walk along the beach, is that my
3 understanding? Or at least partially along the beach?

4 A. Yeah, part of it was along the beach.

5 Q. Did you ever take the train to go to Monte Carlo or
6 Monaco?

7 A. I believe I went there once for that purpose, but the
8 train would pass through Monaco to go to Nice or any other
9 destination in France.

10 Q. Did you go to those other destinations?

11 A. I had to go to Nice to get to the airport, so, yes.

12 Q. Did you ever go to Nice other than going to the
13 airport?

14 A. I think once I went there to walk around and see it.

15 Q. Did you travel anywhere else in France while you were
16 doing your summer semester?

17 A. While I was doing my exchange year there, I once went
18 to Paris for a few days to see it.

19 Q. How did you get to Paris?

20 A. I actually took a bus.

21 Q. Did you take a bus or a train?

22 A. Bus.

23 Q. Did you go to Paris once or more than once?

24 A. Yeah, it was just once.

25 Q. And did you travel anywhere else in France, other

—Barry L. Fanning, RMR, CRR - Official Court Reporter—

(253) 882-3833 Barry_Fanning@WAWD.uscourts.gov

1717 Pacific Ave - Tacoma, WA 98402

EXHIBIT B

Page 18 of 64